IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the paragraph at page 9, line 22 to page 10, line 17 as follows:

Fig. 1 is a photomicrograph (taken using a scanning probe microscope) of the surface of a 1/16 inch-thick test specimen which was produced by molding a flame retardant aromatic polycarbonate resin composition obtained in substantially the same manner as in Example 4, except that component (C) was changed to potassium perfluorobutane sulfonate (tradename: RM-65; manufactured and sold by MITENI S.p.A., Italy), and which was subjected to the 20 mm Vertical Burning Test described in UL-Subject 94. In the 20 mm Vertical Burning Test, the test specimen was self-extinguished 3 seconds after the second contact (10 seconds) with fire, and the flame retardancy of the test specimen was "V-0". In the photomicrograph of Fig. 1, black portions are branched metal oxide particles (B) and the remainder is a matrix comprising an aromatic polycarbonate (A), an alkali metal salt (C) of an organic sulfonic acid and a fluoropolymer (D). Further, on the photomicrograph of Fig. 1, the total area of the metal oxide particles as component (B) is 56 %, based on the area of the photomicrograph.

Amend the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 10 as follows:

In the present invention, the "particles" mean those which are observed as distinct particles in the transmission electron microscopy (TEM) performed with respect to an ultrathin specimen of a resin composition, or in the scanning probe atomic force microscopy (SPM) performed with respect to a surface or cross-section of a molded article of the resin composition (maginification in each of the microscopies is generally from × 10,000 to × 100,000 ~~10,000,000~~). In each of the above-mentioned microscopies, the branched metal oxide particles (B) which are, as mentioned above, in the form of aggregates and/or agglomerates, are observed as distinct particles.

Amend the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 23 to page 30, line 7 as follows:

In the present invention, the particle diameter of branched metal oxide particles (B) can be measured by the above-mentioned TEM or SPM as follows. With respect to each of 100 or more particles on a TEM or SPM photomicrograph of the resin composition, the area (S) thereof is measured. Using the measured areas (S) of the particles, the diameter of each of the particles is calculated by the formula $(4S/\pi)^{0.5}$ ~~$(4S/\mu)^{0.5}$~~. Further, using the above-mentioned photomicrograph, the particle diameter distribution can also be determined.

Amend the paragraph beginning at page 64, line 12 as follows:

3. Component (C): ~~Organic sulfonic acid~~ Alkali metal salt of an organic sulfonic acid.